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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
May 16, 2001.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RAY LAHOOD to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend Whit W. Grace, First United Methodist Church, Long Beach, Mississippi offered the following prayer:

Mr. Speaker, Members of the House of Representatives, and honored guests, let us take this moment to bow for a moment of prayer.

Almighty Father, Wonderful Counselor, we come to You this morning as mere people whom You have chosen to be Your vessel in this place of power. We come from different backgrounds and different places, yet we are joined together for a united goal. This goal will allow You to lead our Nation in a way which will bring a sense of opportunity to each one of our citizens.

The work which we do in this Chamber will affect the lives of people we may never see. O God, would that You bless us and enlarge our horizons, that Your hand might be with us, and that You may keep us from hurt and harm. And at the end of this day, allow all thoughts and all work not to be pleasing to parties or certain groups, but pleasing to You, Almighty Father. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Chair's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. McNULTY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BALLENGER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. BALLENGER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces there will be five 1 minutes on each side after the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) is recognized for 1 minute.

THE REVEREND WHIT W. GRACE

(Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, today we are privileged to have been joined by Reverend Whit Grace, who is the pastor of the First United Methodist Church in Long Beach, Mississippi.

I have to confess it was not until I was elected to Congress that I fully appreciated just how tough a job our priests and preachers and rabbis and ministers have.

See, Mr. Speaker, I have discovered that when something goes wrong, the local Congressmen usually are the second or the third call. The first call is to the local priest or the preacher and minister. It has to be an incredibly tough job when all you do is hear someone has gotten in trouble with the law or someone is ill or someone has just died or someone is near death.

So, Reverend, for what you do and for what all of our priests and preachers do on a daily basis, to listen to our problems and to help as best as you can, to ask for divine intervention, I want to thank you, and I want to thank everyone who chose to serve our Nation in the ministry.

YUCCA MOUNTAIN DOES NOT SOLVE THE ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, we need to address the energy crisis in our Nation; however, before this country can embrace increases in nuclear energy production, we need to solve the problem of what to do with the high level nuclear waste.

Because burying it in Yucca Mountain, an area already rocked by earthquakes on a regular basis, is not the answer.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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